

To the players, parents, and boosters at Richmond Academy,

First, let me start off by saying what an honor it is to be taking over this program. The baseball history at this place cannot be understated; 7 consecutive state championships, 3 southeast region championships, and one national championship. My goal in returning to ARC is to bring the program back to prominence, especially within the Richmond/Aiken/Columbia County area. To do that, it will take buy-in from everyone. Our goal, from the outset, should be to be the best team in Richmond County. WE will follow the standards set forth by those who came before us!

To the 2023 seniors, we started at ARC together and I am pumped to be coming back to finish with you guys. You have been through 3 coaching changes, numerous assistants, and a pandemic. I will lean on you heavily to establish a culture with the younger players and lead; I will also hold you to the highest standard! You have all the talent to be successful, but it is going to take trusting me and my process to best utilize that talent. You can be the foundation that programs are built on!

To the rest of the team, I have seen many of you play and I am excited about what the future holds. Next year we will set the standard for what it means to play baseball at ARC, and you all will carry that forward. Standards will be high, but I am confident you all will rise to the standards and we will have fun meeting those standards!

To the parents, admin, and boosters, I am elated to be back at ARC! The support you have shown to the athletic programs and the school itself is amazing! I want you to understand that my first goal is to continue the winning culture at ARC; to do this, we will continue to focus on fundamentals and understanding every aspect of the game. We will put an emphasis on grades and representing the program in a way that is good in the school community, and community at large. On top of that, we will dive into recruiting and finding out what the boys want to do after their high school career is over. In my eyes, my job as a coach is to develop not only good baseball players, but good sons, boyfriends/husbands, fathers, and men as a whole. This process requires patience and support, and I will be looking to you all often; WE will do this right.

About Me:

My name is Kyle Blum and I am originally from Tampa, Florida. My fiancé, Chelsea, and I moved here 5 years ago. I am the son of a career teacher (Mom is in her 34th year) and small business owner and high school football coach (Dad). I was raised playing sports in every season and having the expectation of having good grades. I attended Sickles High School in Tampa, Florida, playing both football and baseball and graduating from the culinary academy. After high school, I started my college career at Maryville College before transferring to Presentation College to finish. At Presentation, I earned my bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Sciences Education; I played both football and baseball at both stops and stayed at Presentation and spent a few years as an assistant coach with the football team. After graduating, I started my teaching and coaching career. All told, I have been coaching baseball for seven years, spending the last two building a brand-new program (from the ground) at Horse Creek Academy. I have also coached football for 8 years. In my time, I have coached in two state championships, put numerous athletes into college (including an entire senior class four years ago at Midland Valley), and been selected twice to be a coach for the Perfect Game 14u Select Festival (2021 and this upcoming year) and the 13u Select Festival this coming year. I look forward to getting to know both my players and students at Richmond!

